

The properties of all the Currituck Clubs are now gunned more systematically than in the old days, so that larger yearly averages do not necessarily point to an increase in actual numbers of the species.

A fact relative to the dispersal of the Mallard is brought out plainly by comparing the proportionate numbers of Mallards and Black Ducks month by month at Swan Isle. The season opens November 10 and ends the first of March. I give below the proportion of Mallards to Blacks month by month for the three seasons, 1909-10, 1910-11, 1911-12, and also the actual numbers of the Mallards themselves.

1909-10	Actual Nos.	1910-11	Actual Nos.	1911-12	Actual Nos.
Nov., 09	20% 50	Nov., 10	28% 107	Nov., 11	11% 29
Dec., 09	8.7 38	Dec., 10	20 95	Dec., 11	8 12
Jan., 10	7.7 16	Jan., 11	8.2 23	Jan., 12	2.2 4
Feb., 10	9.5 16	Feb., 11	10 7	Feb., 12	2.4 2

It is easy to see that there is a great falling off of Mallards from November to January. I believe that the diminishing numbers after November indicate the passing along of a flight.

I should attribute the extraordinarily small numbers of Mallards killed in the past season, 1911-12, at Swan Isle, to the fact that the Club cut down by at least one-half the usual output of bait, were it not for the fact that this was a very lean year for Mallards at the Currituck Club, the proportion being only 17% and the actual numbers well under one half of the usual bag. This is very nearly as low as the bad Mallard year of 1899-1900 which as mentioned above gave only 15%. Mr. Thayer assures me that the Currituck Club records can be absolutely relied upon, and I can vouch for the last three years at Swan Isle.—J. C. PHILLIPS, *Wenham, Mass.*

**Dispersal of the Australian Duck (*Anas superciliosa*).**—In 1911 an old pair of these birds was allowed to hatch and bring up nine young. These were banded on August 17 (not unfortunately with the American Association bands), and placed in the Wood Duck pond, where they grew their flight feathers. Late in September these young birds began to move about the place. They remained very tame. I know of three that were shot in Wenham. Two individuals, however, stayed about until December 17. By that time they had become fairly wild, having of course been more or less persecuted. After December 17 none was seen until mid-winter, when on February 20, 1912, a single one came back and was found in the winter duck yard. It allowed a close approach so that its band was plainly visible, and then flushed and flew away in an easterly direction. Up to the present date (Aug. 20) no more have returned.

The Australian duck, *Anas superciliosa* (I disregard the genus *Polionetta* because it serves no useful purpose as far as I am aware), is a widely distributed species, probably nearly, if not entirely non-migratory. As given

by Salvadori in the Catalogue of Birds, Vol. 27, it occurs 'from Java and Timor to Southern New Guinea, Australia, New Zealand sub-region, and Polynesia, including the Pelew Islands.'

Mr. Gregory M. Mathews writes me under date of Aug. 14, 1912, that there are several subspecies of this duck outside Australia which he is inclined to admit as valid because this bird is not a real migrant, although it flies long distances at times.

The return of one of my Australian ducks on February 20, suggests that there was no attempt at migration, and that the birds were either starved out or shot in this neighborhood.— J. C. PHILLIPS, *Wenham, Mass.*

**The European Teal (*Nettion crecca*) again Returning to Wenham, Mass.**— In 'The Auk,' 1911, page 366, I told of the migration and return of a European Teal raised in captivity here at Wenham. The bird arrived April 19, 1911 after an absence since December 6, 1910.

All summer of 1911 this bird was in or near the pond. On November 25 our captive fowl were placed in winter quarters, and our Teal vacated. Four other poorly pinioned European Teal escaped at the same time, having grown outer secondaries or new primaries long enough to enable them to fly. Our bird, however, did not leave until December 31, as she was seen several times about the pond and lake until that date. Wenham Lake closed during the first few days of January, 1912, the fall having been extremely mild.

On the morning of April 18, 1912, our bird was again back in the pond where she was hatched, having arrived during the night or early morning; thus completing her second migration. That day she was quite shy, and flushed immediately, but soon returned. I saw her first on April 20. She was then perfectly tame and could with difficulty be driven from the pond.

On April 23 another Teal appeared in the pond; whether an escape of last fall, or some other bird, can only be conjectured. This bird did not remain long, however.

It is fair, I think, to consider the first arrival the same bird as before reported, though there is no absolute evidence. The dates of spring arrival on the two years are I think interesting.— J. C. PHILLIPS, *Wenham, Mass.*

**Northern Eider in South Dakota; a new record for the interior of North America.**— It is my privilege to announce the capture, November 4, 1911, of a Northern Eider, *Somateria mollissima borealis*, in Lake County, eastern South Dakota. The identification is by the Biological Survey. Wells W. Cooke writes 'not only the first record for South Dakota, but the first record for the whole interior of North America.' Adrian Larson of Sioux Falls, who at my suggestion sent the specimen to Washington for identification, supplies the following notes: This bird, which is either a female or an immature male, was shot about forty miles north in a lake region 'locally called Madison Pass.' The severe cold